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Islam will flourish in India

, New Delhi, (UNI) - Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi said here on January 28 that Islam will always be recognised as one of "our (India's) own religions" and it will continue to grow and flourish in this country.

Inaugurating a three-day International Seminar on Islam's contribution to the culture and civilisation of the world with special reference to India, Mrs. Gandhi assured that Muslims in India were full and equal partners in national life - its politics, its art, its literature and self-expression.

Mrs. Gandhi greeted the gathering as the leader of a nation with the second largest Muslim population in the world and said "every opportunity that is open to any Indian is open to an Indian Muslim. We make no discrimination against the adherent of any religion. All faiths are entitled to equal protection and equal respect".

At the start of the seminar, a woman delegate from Pakistan, Mrs. Owasi, presented a copy of the Holy Koran to Mrs. Gandhi.

India's Vice-President, Mohammed Hidayatullah, who is the Chairman of the Advisory Committee for the celebration, said it had earlier been decided to release a book on the life and teachings of Prophet Mohammed on this occasion but it could not be completed in time.

Over 200 scholars from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, South East Asia, West Asia, the United States, African and European countries are taking part in the seminar which is being organised as part of the 1400th anniversary celebrations of the Hijra era.

Some of the themes being discussed in the seminar include the "Emergence of Islam the world over", "influence of Islam on Indian culture and economy" and "Islamic jurisprudence".

The first session on January 28 was chaired by Maulana Syed Abul Hasan from Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh). Most of the papers presented dealt with the emergence of Islam and its spread in West Asia and South-East Asia.

Mrs. Gandhi released a book on this occasion called "Aqidat Ke Phool" in praise of Prophet Mohammed written by the Indian Deputy Minister for Works and Housing, Mr. Mohammed Usman Arif.

Earlier, Union Education Minister S.B. Chavan announced that it had been decided to allot a plot of land for an Islamic culture centre.

Shukla election valid

New Delhi, (UNI) - The Supreme Court has reversed a Madhya Pradesh High Court judgment and upheld the election of Indian Civil Supplies Minister Vidhya-Charan Shukla to the Lok Sabha (Lower House of Parliament) from the Mahasamund constituency in Madhya Pradesh in January last year.

The Supreme Court had earlier acquitted Mr. Shukla in the "Kissa Kursi Ka" case prior to the pronouncement of the High Court judgment in the election petition. In that case Mr. Shukla, at that time Indian Minister for Information in Mrs. Gandhi's Cabinet, had been convicted by the sessions court on a charge of destroying a film lampooning the government and sentenced him to two years rigorous imprisonment.

The Supreme Court now held that its earlier judgment in the "kissa" case had the result of "wiping out his disqualification as completely and effectively as if it did not exist at any time, including the date of the scrutiny of the nomination papers".

The election of Mr. Shukla was challenged by the defeated candidate, Mr. Purushottam Lal Kaushik, former Civil Aviation Minister in the Janata Government, on the grounds that Mr. Shukla's nomination papers were improperly accepted by the returning officer as he was a convicted person at that time.

Allowing Mr. Shukla's appeal, the three-member bench held that as the acquittal of Mr. Shukla was with retrospective effect, Mr. Shukla could not be said to have been disqualified at the time of scrutiny of the nomination. The conclusion must inevitably follow that the nomination was properly accepted by the returning officer, the Supreme Court ruled.

Non-aligned gather

New Delhi, - (Reuter) - Feb. 9 - Foreign ministers of the non-aligned movement meet here today in an attempt to heal their differences on major international issues, but there were few signs that a compromise will be reached, conference sources said yesterday.

India, a founder of the 95-member movement and chairman of this conference, has fought to preserve a consensus by trying to smooth over the differences and internal strains which plague the grouping.

Indian Foreign Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao said in an interview yesterday that the non-aligned movement would never be free from stress, but he hoped unity could be maintained by adopting a balanced approach to global and regional issues.

'General atmosphere has improved'

"Although no concrete solution has emerged in respect of any of the issues, the general atmosphere has improved to some extent and there is room to feel confident," Mr. Rao added.

It is the first non-aligned conference since the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan, which is a member of the movement. Pakistan is asking members to oppose the Soviet move and to demand the withdrawal of foreign forces from Afghanistan.

Pakistan's Foreign Minister Agha Shahi yesterday ruled out settlement talks with the Soviet-backed Afghan Government during the Delhi conference.

Afghanistan, with the support of the Cuban and Vietnamese-led pro-Soviet bloc, is trying to delete any reference to foreign intervention.

Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev in a message yesterday to Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi made no mention of Afghanistan, the major political issue dividing the foreign ministers, and said friendship and co-operation with the non-aligned countries was a principle of Soviet foreign policy.

Mr. Brezhnev said the non-aligned struggle was of special importance now that attempts were being made to thrust the world back to the times of the cold war. The non-aligned movement at its last conference in Havana in 1979 rejected Cuban attempts to have the Soviet Union declared a natural ally of the group, which comprises two-thirds of the world's countries.

Other issues facing the conference are the war between Iran and Iraq and the Vietnamese military presence in Cambodia.

Iran is demanding the expulsion of Iraq and is expected to ask foreign ministers to set up a committee of guardians to punish member countries for violating the principles on non-alignment.

This is particularly sensitive because Baghdad has been chosen as the site for the next non-aligned summit meeting in 1982 and Iraq has been selected to succeed Cuba as chairman of the non-aligned movement.

In Tehran, Iran said yesterday it would ask the conference to condemn Iraqi President Saddam Hussein for ordering his troops into Iran last Sept. 22.

Behzad Nabavi, Minister of Executive Affairs, was quoted by state radio as saying the summit should take clear-cut decisions on the Iranian invasion of Iraq, the issues of Jerusalem and the "military occupation of Palestine".

There has been speculation that the summit might be an opportunity for mediation in the Iran-Iraq war, but Mr. Nabavi was quoted as saying "any discussion of this case will be postponed until the withdrawal of Iraqi forces."

No troop withdrawal 'until threat ended'

Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach said yesterday that Vietnamese troops could not be withdrawn from Cambodia until "the Chinese threat" had ended. He also said "nobody can discuss Kampuchea (Cambodia) without Kampuchea being present."

Members of the non-aligned movement have decided to keep the Cambodian seat vacant because they could not agree on which of two rival governments should be invited.

Reddy to retire

New Delhi - Indian President Neelam Sanjiva Reddy said he is sick of politics and will retire after his present term ends next year. Mr. Reddy, 67, who was elected President for a five-year term in July, 1977, said in the northern Indian city of Chandigarh, "I am praying for my present term to be over, after which I will retire to my village and be a simple peasant." Mr. Reddy was born of peasant parents in the southern state of Andhra Pradesh.

MRS GANDHI PRESENTS SHANKAR'S AWARDS

The Prime Minister, Mrs. Gandhi presented awards to the winners of Shankar's International Children's competition 1979 at a colorful function in New Delhi. The President's gold medal for painting was presented to the 14-year old Sunil Chaudhari of Nasik. The 12-year old Karen Anne Turnbull of Britain received the prize for the best written work. About 22 children from 18 countries shared an equal number of Jawaharlal Memorial gold medals for paintings and writings.

Girl rescued

Hyderabad: It was almost like a "film" drama when Kulsum Bee, an attendant at a private school in the old city area, rushed into the residence of a "marriage broker" to stop her 15-year-old daughter being married off to an old Arab.

The girl, Shahnaz, along with 14-year-old Nasreen were being hitched to two old Arabs at the broker's residence in Imli Ban, of Yakutpura area of the old city when police burst in.

The Arabs are, however absconding and the police have arrested the broker, Habeeb Hussain, who had "arranged" about 200 marriages so far, more than half of these are said to have ended in divorce within the country itself and about 50 after the grooms took the girls away to the Gulf.

Kulsum Bee returned from her work at around 5:30 and found her daughter not home. On enquiry, she learnt that the young girl had been taken away by a washerwoman in a rickshaw. The rickshaw puller and the washerwoman are stated to be "scouts" for the broker.

Shahnaz's mother came to know that her daughter had been taken to the broker's residence and rushed there just as the two "couples" were sitting side by side to be bound in matrimony.

On seeing the mother, the Arabs got flustered and fled. The girls were being married off without the consent of the parents and police have registered a case of kidnap and wrongful confinement against the broker.

The broker gets around Rs 2,000 per alliance and sometimes higher, if he caters to the whims and fancies of the prospective bridegroom.

There are about 20 such "renowned" liaison men in the old city area and police have planned a crackdown on them soon.

Habeeb has been in business for the past five years ever since he married his daughter to an Arab. He himself is of Arab descent.

Blending of Hindu and Muslim laws

New Delhi, (UNI) - Speakers on the last day of the three-day international seminar here on "Islam's contribution to the culture and civilisation of the world with special reference to India" emphasised the need to blend Hindu law and Islamic jurisprudence so as to evolve a new national legal system.

Justice Krishna Iyer, former Supreme Court judge and Justice M.H. Beg, former Chief Justice of India, advocated this veiw.

Senior scientist of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Ehsanullah Khan, said the scientific knowledge of muslim religious leaders was "nearly one thousand years old and they had shown very little capacity for understanding modern sciences properly".

Dr. Khan said the muslim scientists, who were taught by religious teachers, were so much influenced by them that they did not "feel any shame in saying that the stand of science changes from time to time, though in fact every science student from the very beginning were taught that the observed facts are eternal like the din (ideology) of religion".

An attempt had been made to explain some basic terms of science with which the religious learned men were generally unfamiliar, Dr. Khan said. Naturally, they confused the issue when they talked on the theme of science and religion. And this created a very bad impression on the muslim scientists. As a result, there was a danger that these scientists might not only reject what the religious learned men said, but they might even reject the source (the Quran and the Sunnah), from which these learned men drew their arguments, Mr. Khan said.

Later in the evening, the Vice-President of India, M. Hidayatullah, delivering the valedictory address expressed the hope that there would be more exchanges of views among different religions in the coming years, to enrich the human society.

UN to study milk project

New Delhi (UNI) - A joint mission of the World Food Programme (WFP) of the United Nations and the Indian Government will study and assess the performance and impact of Operation Flood-Phase I in this country. A ten-member team arriving here on February 9 will take a four-week tour of the key areas of the country covered by this programme of augmenting milk production in the country.

This was stated here by the Chairman of the Indian National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), Dr. V. Kurien, who told newsmen that Operation Flood was considered to be a very good example of food being used as an instrument of development.

The WFP mission will include representatives from the UN Secretary-General's Secretariat. It would study the performance of the Indian Dairy Corporation and the NDDP.

The 112.5-million dollar project for Phase I was designed by NDDB and launched by the Indian Dairy Corporation in a bid to upgrade and modernise milk production, procurement, processing and marketing.

Operation Flood-Phase I, which began in 1970 with the promise by European countries to supply free of cost 126,000 tonnes of milk powder and 42,000 tonnes of butter oil for a decade, will come to an end on March 31 this year.

The operation was directed at developing the dairy industry so as to create "milk flood" in the metropolitan cities of Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and Delhi and in the rural areas which feed these cities. The aim of the operation was to make the country less dependent on imported dairy products.

Besides providing milk to the major metropolitan cities, the project aimed at increasing production and procurement of milk in the hinterland areas in the ten states, including Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh.

Assessing the performance of Operation Flood, Dr. Kurien said the per capita consuption of milk and milk products, which stood at 105 gms a day before the launching of the project, rose to 122 gms a day at the end of the project, despite the increase in the population.

Fruitful solar study

New Delhi, (UNI) - Results of experiments conducted in India during the total solar eclipse on February 9, 1980, have revealed that the eclipse did not have any deleterious effect on human beings, animals or plants.

The findings of over a hundred of these experiments are being discussed at the three-day International Symposium on the "Total Solar Eclipse" organised by the Indian National Science Academy here.

A larger number of scientific papers are being presented during the seminar by the Indian scientists who conducted a number of experiments during the eclipse.

The most interesting reading was afforded by the paper presented on the experimentations done on animals and plants.

These studies have belied the prevailing notion that animals become immobile during the solar eclipse. The results of the experiments have also discounted the belief that harmful radiations emanate during the eclipse and that the people have to avoid exposure to the sun during the period of the eclipse.

A group of scientists from Madras carried out a series of electrophysiogical and neuro-chemical studies on human beings and animals to find out the possible effects of a total solar eclipse on the physiology of living organisms.

Rare Quranic writings

Jaipur (Rajasthan) (UNI) - The small town of Tonk, in the Indian state of Rajasthan, has the privilege of possessing the richest collection of Arabic and Persian manuscripts.

Some of these manuscripts are so rare that their copies are not available elsewhere in the world.

The collection comprises more than 5,000 manuscripts on various subjects including Quranic Sciences, Historiography, Medicine, Sufism, Astrology, Astronomy, Chemistry and Lexicography.

A number of manuscripts dating back to the Fifth century Hijri are fine specimens of calligraphic ornamentation and decorative work of gold.

There are a number of manuscripts which are supposed to be original and the only treatises of their kind throughout the world. Some of them are important in respect of the seal impressions of the kings and princes of the pre-Mughal and Mughal periods.

The institute has an international reputation and research scholars from various countries frequently visit Tonk, to utilize its services.

The collection was founded by Nawab Mohammed Ali Khan, the third ruler of the erstwhile Tonk state during 1865-67. When he was deposed, he took this collection from Tonk to Banaras (Uttar Pradesh) and enriched it with rare works from all over the world. The Nawab was himself a versatile scholar and a bibliographist.

The Rajasthan Government has declared this centre a separate and independent directorate entitled the "Arabic and Persian Research Institute" (APRI). After the setting up of this directorate, the field survey, classification, cataloguing, calendaring, editing and translation work of manuscripts are in progress.

Improving Indo-Polish trade

New Delhi, (UNI) - A new trade and payments agreement between India and Poland for the five-year period 1981-85 was signed here on Friday.

With this agreement, signed by India's Commerce Minister Pranab Mukherjee and Polish Minister for Foreign Trade and Shipping Dr. Rysard Karski, Indo-Polish trade which had suffered a setback last year is expected to improve.

Under the new agreement, the mode of payment for all commercial and non-commercial transactions between the two countries would continue to be in non-convertible Indian rupees.

The two countries also signed a trade protocol for 1981 envisaging a trade turnover of nearly 288 million dollars both ways, indicating an increase of about 16 per cent over the trade plan targets for 1980. The actual turnover last year was 152 million dollars.

Three new areas of trade have been identified: mining, shipping and energy. These areas involve not only trade cooperation but also technical collaboration and tapping third country markets.

Trade promotion fund asked

New Delhi, (UNI) - India has asked Britain to consider a long-standing proposal for a trade promotion fund as a measure to help India's marketing efforts.

Addressing the fourth meeting of the Indo-British Economic Committee here, Commerce Minister Pranab Kumar Mukherjee said this would be necessary to bridge the widening trade gap between India and the United Kingdom. The situation had worsened also because of the increase in oil prices and the inadequate response to India's liberal export policy from the developing nations.

Mr. Mukherjee said the recent developments had adversely affected India's export of textiles and animal feed to the United Kingdom.

While the sudden clamp down by the 'British Customs' on the "folklore" items had puzzled the Indian Government, the propaganda about the hazards of Indian cotton had caused deep anguish, Mr. Mukherjee said.

Mr. Mukherjee said the proposed ban on groundnut and cottonseed extractions by Britain was "discriminatory" since similar regulations were not visualised in respect of other foodstuffs supplied by the affluent countries.

Welfare schemes for coir workers

Trivandrum, (UNI) - A welfare scheme for the coir workers in Kerala is likely to be introduced by the state government by March next.

The main feature of the scheme now under preparation is the setting up of a welfare fund for the coir workers in the state. This fund would be raised through contributions from the workers, employers including cooperative societies, and the government.

Under this scheme, the coir workers will have to register their names in the panchayats or municipalities, so as to enable the government to obtain the accurate number of workers engaged in coir industry.

To strengthen the co-operative sector, Kerala government had sought Central assistance.

INDIA TO HOST SEAFOOD FAIR

Cochin, (UNI) - Japan, the largest importer of Indian marine products, is sponsoring a 20-member delegation from the Japan Marine Products Importers Association to the Fourth Indian Seafood Fair at Madras.

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	Vegetarian Ham bits	$3.79	
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	French Almond	$3.95	
	Carob Chip	$3.95	
	Pecan	$3.95	
	Coconut Honey	$3.95	
	Mixed Nuts	$3.95	
	Oatmeal Raisin	$3.95	
	Variety Pack	$3.95	
		TOTAL	

"VEGETARIAN FRUIT PIES":

Quantity	Pie Description	Price per Item	Total Price
	Apple Pie	$1.79	
	Cherry Pie	$1.79	
	Peach Pie	$1.79	
	Strawberry Pie	$1.79	
	Pineapple Pie	$1.79	
	Blueberry Pie	$1.79	
	Variety Pack	$1.79	
		TOTAL	

JUMBO NATURAL COOKIES:

Quantity	Product Description	Price Per Item	Total Price
	Jumbo Pecan	$1.29	
	Jumbo Coconut	$1.29	
	Jumbo Oatmeal	$1.29	
	Jumbo Carob Chip	$1.29	
	Jumbo Nut	$1.29	
	Jumbo Almond	$1.29	
	Variety Pack	$1.29	
		TOTAL	

"WHOLISTIC NATURAL COOKIES":

Quantity	Cookie Description	Price per Item	Total Price
	Nutty Carob Chip	$3.69	
	Banana Coconut	$3.69	
	Date Nut	$3.69	
	Carob Brownies	$3.69	
	Granola Wafers	$3.69	
	Honey Wheat Germ	$3.69	
	Cinnamon Raisin	$3.69	
	Cashew Honey	$3.69	
	Variety Pack Five of the most Popular Flavours	$3.69	
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Quantity	Product Description	Price per Item	Total Price
	Date Raisin	$1.79	
	Coconut Raisin	$1.79	
	Raspberry Cinnamon	$1.79	
	Carob Raisin	$1.79	
	Carob Date	$1.79	
	Nutty Cherry	$1.79	
	Variety Pack	$1.79	
		TOTAL	

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ONTARIO ELECTION

The province of Ontario is soon to have a general election. Premier William Davis is trying again to get a majority in the provincial parliament. As Canada's largest province with the largest number of Indo-Canadians among any Canadian province, the Indo-Canadians, we hope, will play an active part in this election. Such participation is sure to enhance their standing and would lead to a better understanding of the issues of interest to them by the provincial politicians.

Though there are more Indo-Canadians in Ontario than in any other Canadian province, our ethnic group also has more problems than elsewhere, particularly in Toronto. The Davis government could have worked a bit more enthusiastically in this area. The Ontario human rights legislation, for example, is lacking in many areas and even when a complaint is launched it takes years (not months) to resolve the issues involved. But for the presence of fair-minded ministers such as Roy McMurtry, even what was achieved would have been impossible to accomplish. If that party forms the Government again more vigorous lobbying will indeed be required.

If the Liberals or, in the unlikely event of the NDP forming the Government also it is needed to make the necessary contacts now. Only by helping during the election time one earns the right to lobby effectively for the changes required.

It would be great if there are Indo-Canadians among the candidates contesting the election. Since their chances of success may be more limited, the parties concerned may show less willingness to accept such candidates. Nevertheless an effort in this area is very worthwhile.

Whatever be the political party of one's preference, participation is the key to democracy's (and our) success here. We hope Indo-Canadians will participate effectively and vote judiciously in the coming election.

Equipment for solar energy exploration

Chandigarh (Punjab), (UNI) India has joined a select group of countries by acquiring the Fresnel Lens Technology for the efficient exploitation of solar energy.

The indigenous development of the technology is a big step as its application will help reduce the cost of harnessing solar energy for industrial and commercial purposes.

Fresnel lens know-how had been a closely-guarded secret of a few firms in the developed world. The breakthrough was achieved by the Central Scientific Instruments Organisation (CSIO).

The application of the lens as solar energy concentrator, reduces the number of solar cells in the conversion of solar radiation into energy. This forms a complete solar panel capable of harnessing solar energy for large-scale commercial use.

The production cost of one fresnel lens, with a focal length of 215 mm and overall size of 150 mm, was estimated at 1.75 dollars as against 12.50 dollars for the imported one.

The lens are widely used as condensers in overhead projectors, X-ray photo projectors, railway and road signalling equipment, airport lighting and landing systems, television screens and reflex camera screens.

They are also preferred to the conventional glass condensors where space, weight and cost were the limiting factors.

Rewriting textbooks urged

New Delhi, (UNI) - Banning drills by communal organisations and rewriting textbooks from a secular and scientific perspective are among the recommendations made to the Indian Government by the minorities Commission headed by Mr. Justice M.R.A. Ansari. The Government has accepted the recommendations and was taking steps to implement them, Mr. Justice Ansari told UNI.

Other recommendations made by the commission and accepted by the Government are:

-- increased recruitment of minorities to the police force and weeding out of communal elements from the force so instil a sense of security and confidence among the minorities; and

-- recognition of the minority character of Aligarh Muslim University in accordance with Article 30 of the Indian Constitution.

the Commission has recommended that adequate relief be provided to victims of communal riots so as to remove any feelings of bitterness among them.

Mr. Justice Ansari said the Commission was yet to undertake an in-depth study of the causes of frequent communal outbursts in India, but he personally believed that the British divide and rule policy, the partition of India and deep-rooted socio-economic factors were mainly responsible for communal strifes.

Unless the attitudes of different communities are harmonised through a combined national effort, there is little chance of eradicating the canker of communalism, he said.

The Commission, entrusted with the responsibility of studying the problems of India's religious and linguistic minorities, has made several recommendations in its reports to the Government for 1978 and 1979. The report for 1980 is under preparation and would be submitted within a month, Mr. Justice Ansari said.

He said the recommendation about relief to riot victims was mainly for the States. Riot-prone states such as Bihar and Uttar Pradesh had accepted the recommendations. The Tamil Nadu Government, however, had not accepted the recommendation on the ground it treated communal riot as a criminal offence. The Commission had urged the Centre to ensure its implementation all over the country, Mr. Justice Ansari said.

Mr. Justice Ansari said the Commission had some major projects on hand besides a study of the causes of recurring communal disturbances and measures to prevent and control them. It would study ways to ensure due representation of minorities in Government services and public sector undertakings, measures to create greater educational facilities for the minorities, with particular reference to admission to professional institutes, steps to improve the socio-economic conditions of the minorities and preservation of the languages of linguistic minorities. Mr. Justice Ansari said the Commission was also examining ways of securing for Urdu its proper place.

On the role of the Press he said: "By giving distorted reports about communal incidents and giving prominence to statements and articles which spread ill feeling, the Press was contributing to communalism."

New light on decimal system

Calcutta, (UNI) - The Decimal System was in operation in the Indus Valley during the period of Harappan Civilisation, according to eminent Indian archaeologist S.R. Rao, who claims to have deciphered the Indus script.

This view is contrary to the popular belief that India had evolved the decimal system centuries after the advent of the Aryans, and that the system was borrowed by the Arabs.

In his address to the Seventh Annual Congress of the Epigraphical Society of India here, Dr. Rao said that a remarkable discovery was made last year at Lothal where a series of gold discs preserved carefully in a pot were unearthed.

These discs weighed fifty milligram, one hundred milligram, 2,500 milligram, 2,750 milligram, 2,800 milligram, 2,900 milligram and 3,000 milligram.

These discs indicative of a definite ratio were proof of the adoption of the decimal system by the people of the ancient civilisation.

According to Dr. Rao the Harappans were so accurate in their measurements that they evolved the smallest unit of mass and the smallest unit of linear measurement ever known in the ancient world.

They seemed to have used gold for exchange purposes.

The scientific instruments and tools such as the compass for measuring angles up to thirty degrees, the twisted drill and the circular saw bore testimony to the inventive genius of the Hzrappans, Dr. Rao said.

A temple row in red light area

New Delhi, (UNI) - The Indian Housewives' Federation has protested against the recent decision of the Madhya Pradesh Government to take over a Shiva temple in Ujjain from a former prostitute who has been managing the shrine and to give it to a Brahmin, Chottu Guru.

The historical temple, one of the 84 Shiva temples in the city and popularly known as "Matangeshwar Temple" is situated in the infamous red light area. It was being maintained out of petty contributions from prostitutes.

Commenting on the Government's decision to take over the temple on the plea that it was not being visited by many people as it was run by prostitutes, Mrs. Savitri Nigam, President of the Federation, said, "these guardians and protagonists of public morality may not be visiting the temple during daytime. But they certainly are visiting the smaller "temples" around it during the night to pay homage to the gods of lust".

Muni Bai, who used to open the door of the temple regularly for the last 30 years, reacted sharply to the Government's decision. "People neither allow us to live nor to die and want to throw us into hell", the mother of four children told UNI.

Muni Bai felt that the women living in the area surrounding the temple had as much right to worship god as anybody else. "Do they have no right to become good citizens?" she asked, referring to her children.

The temple is one of the cleanest in the city. It was removed from the control of the prostitutes when a "Janseva Samiti" (Peoples' Service Society) pleaded with the district authorities that the temple had lost its sanctity because of its association with the prostitutes.

According to Chotu Guru, the number of visitors to the temple had risen after the change of management.

Meanwhile, Muni Bai and other prostitutes are being allowed to have darshan (proximity and prayer) of Lord Shiva in the temple.

"Nobody is barred from that", Chotu Guru said.

Youth best blood donors

Chandigarh, (UNI) - The craze for slimming and dieting has made many women unfit for blood donation.

This is the finding of a survey conducted in the northern region of India by the Blood Bank Society of the Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PCI) here.

The survey covered more than 200,000 voluntary donors, mainly employees, armed forces personnel and students.

Although women were found to be more responsive than men, their rejection rate was 7 per cent in towns because of under-weight, poor health and lack of negotiable views for "puncture," Society head Dr. J.G. Jolly told UNI.

Only 20 to 25 per cent of women in towns meet the pre-requisites for voluntary blood donation. Menstrual cycle, pregnancy and lactation were also responsible for the high rate of rejection.

The survey revealed that the rejection rate among village girls was lower.

Students and youth were found to be more responsive to blood donation.

Dr. Jolly said the Blood Bank Society was concentrating on students as they had proved to be donors for longer periods and a good source of motivation in the establishments they joined.

India's b... base

India has sources of strength that many developing countries would envy. It may have considerable reserves of oil off the west coast and thus stands a good chance of becoming an oil producer.

From being an importer of food grain in the 1960s, India has moved impressively to establish grain reserves and next year could become a grain exporter. The country has a broad industrial base and a self-sufficiency in industry that, however inefficient it may be, gives India much independence in world trade.

India also has a relatively small backlog of overseas debt. This has contributed to a high international credit rating for the nation, which has recently become a significant capital market.

But it is to the failings of the Government and the economy that Indians look today. Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was returned to power a year ago with a two-thirds majority in Parliament, an unchallengeable dominance over the Congress Party and probably more power than any prime minister has had since independence. Her massive victory reflected the desire for strong leadership and "a government that works."

But her Government has not been much more effective than the Janata government it replaced. There has been little letup in caste or communal violence in Northern India or in the brutal thefts and killings that punctuate village and city life. The number of unemployed is estimated to exceed 20 million.

Mrs. Gandhi has failed to convey the sense of urgency in tackling economic problems that was expected of her and which she promised. Prices have remained high in part because of shortages that have resulted from the Government's failure to come to grips with the problems that have caused low industrial output.

The Cabinet is short on talent and experience; ministers lack the authority to take initiative. Government uncertainty has been exacerbated by the massive transfer of personnel within the central and state governments.

All major decisions tend to land on Mrs. Gandhi's desk. And she has found no substitute for her son, Sanjay, to whom she had effectively entrusted the management of economic and industrial policy. He died in a plane crash in June, 1980.

As a result of inadequate investment and poor management in the past, India has been caught in a vicious circle of coal, power, rail and steel shortages that have exacerbated one another and transformed the mini-industrial boom of 1976-78 into a recession.

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There are no easy solutions to the complex problems of aging equipment, violence and theft in the coal-fields of Bihar and Bengal; to the union rivalries that have crippled power deliveries from Damodar Valley Corp., the main power supplier for the eastern region; or to the shortage of rail cars, congestion of freight traffic and overmanning on the railways.

India, like China, has run into the bottlenecks of a continental economy with immense difficulties in coordinating across vast distances local requirements for power, steel, coal, heavy engineering equipment, manufactured goods and food grains.

One aspect of the economic malfunctioning is that despite the enormous capital investment that India has made, particularly in the public sector, it has a lower rate of output from its capital than almost any other country in the world.

Savings as a proportion of gross national product have climbed to 24 per cent, which is staggeringly high for such a poor country. But the average annual growth in output has never risen beyond a meagre 3.5 per cent for any length of time - and last year it turned negative.

Another problem has been the pre-occupation of successive governments with seeking a more equitable distribution of wealth, with controlling inflation and with preventing a concentration of economic power in the larger industrial companies. This has resulted in an increasingly complex system of controls, which has hampered initiative.

There are, however, some causes for optimism. Mrs. Gandhi has made some encouraging appointments in her own secretariat and in the power and steel sectors. She has summoned industrialists to see her about infrastucture problems and has taken the chair herself in cabinet meetings on exports and the infrastructure.

The Government has pushed through a program of oil exploration involving the participation of foreign oil companies. This is a significant departure for a country with a long record of distrust of foreign multinationals.

Another departure is India's recent readiness to borrow from the international money markets and International Monetary Fund to finance capital projects and help bridge the trade deficit caused by the steep rise in oil prices.

But a pall of gloom has hung over the Indian economy since the disastrous 1979-80 fiscal year, when national income fell nearly 4 per cent. Despite the favorable monsoon in 1980 and the improvement in agriculture that is expected to prop up the GNP and ease the price situation, what is really in progress is a holding operation.

The major factor that has transformed India's short and long term prospects is the substantial rise in oil prices. Oil imports now take up more than 70 per cent of export earnings. Oil is the main reason for the fall in foreign exchange reserves to about $6.6-billion (U.S.) after a continuous rise for nearly five years.

Oil and petroleum products have had to be imported to make up the loss of 3.5 million metric tons of crude a year because of the agitation in Assam. That agitation has affected the reserves at a time when the trade deficit is expected to reach a record $5.14-billion in 1980-81. The balance of trade position has also been worsened because the growth rate in exports has been slower than the targeted 10 per cent. The long term payments prospects are distinctly bleak.

The Government may well find it difficult to overcome the expected $3.5-billion annual gap expected within four years without resorting to further international borrowings.

This is not considered undesirable, but there is a growing recognition of the need to increase exports if the country is not to become excessively dependent on foreign sources and is to avoid cuts in imports of raw materials and capital goods, which would retard industrialization.

At present, there are no indications that exports will rise to the required high level. The Ministry of Industry said there was a 7 per cent rise in production in November and a 10 per cent rise in December, 1980, and this may be a good sign.

But industrial production has not risen to the extent thought possible earlier in 1980 after the monsoon proved to be bountiful. Until the second fiscal quarter, industrial production was running well below even the previous year's poor performances. The improvement in the past few months is unlikely to make a material difference. By the end of fiscal 1980-81, a rise of no more than 4 per cent is expected over the previous year's sharp drop.

The reason is that the infrastructure constraints that plagued the economy in 1979-80 have not been removed. The crippling power shortage improved only marginally after reservoirs were filled by the 1980 monsoon, and poor generation from thermal and nuclear plants partly negated the gains. The power supply is not expected to rise more than 10 per cent in 1980-81 and will thus continue to limit production.

The power crisis is partly a result of the vicious circle in which industry has been caught because of the failures in coal production and railway movement.

Coal production has risen only marginally to 109 million tons, but its quality remains doubtful and its transport is hampered by the poor performance of the railways, which are burdened by as many as 18,000 "sick" cars.

The labor situation has improved, because of the remarkable drop of nearly 300 per cent in man-days lost; but productivity has not risen at the same rate.

The redeeming feature is higher agricultural production. This, however, has come almost entirely as a result of the good monsoon and underlines the country's continuing dependence on weather. The improvement was also limited to food grains, which are expected to reach a record 152 million tons, up 17 per cent from the drought-hit year of 1979-80.

This has bolstered the food stocks again. These should reach a safe 18 million tons after the winter procurement is over. If all goes well, India may even export one million tons of food grain in 1981-82.

This would be a real breakthrough and would help close the trade gap. But it remains to be seen if food exports would be a permanent feature and whether they would be politically acceptable when a large part of the population is near the starvation level.

But non-food grains production continues to be erratic; only sugar cane has improved. There is no sign that the big edible oil import bill will be reduced because of better domestic production. Certainly, the fertilizer consumption level remains low at 5.5 million tons and gives rise to doubts about the forecast food grain production figures.

Nor is the price situation comfortable. In the past two to three months, inflation has shown signs of flattening out and it is possible that the fiscal year will end with an annual rate of 12 or 13 per cent. This would be down from the 21 per cent of the previous year, but it is still high.

Prices have been kept in check partly because the money supply had risen only 8.8 per cent up to November, compared with 10.2 per cent the previous year. But the budgetary deficit is certain to be far more than the $1.8-billion anticipated by the Finance Minister in his final budget presented last June and this is not a good sign.

The question of reducing the budgetary burden of subsidies such as those on food had not been firmly tackled; the pressure of the farmers' lobby has resulted in higher prices for agricultural goods despite the decision to resist the demand for the rise. The pricing policy for products of the public and private sectors is also a matter of much disquiet.

In the short run, given suitable weather, the economy could be pulled out of its stagnation by resolute political decisions of the kind that, for instance, have been made on industrial and trade policies in the past few months.

During the current year, the Government hopes for a 5 per cent rise in GNP, but this is a misleading figure because the nominal increase comes in a good monsoon

[continued Page 6]

Cuba-Soviet links criticised

New Delhi (Reuter) - Feb. 10 - Singapore has openly questioned Cuba's right to lead non-aligned countries, saying its close links with Moscow have seriously eroded the credibility and effectiveness of the movement.

The attack against Cuba, current chairman of the non-aligned group, came last night, at the opening session of a foreign ministers' conference here.

Singapore Foreign Minister Suppiah Dhanabalan told delegates: "The leadership of our movement by a country so openly committed to promoting the interests of its superpower patron has seriously eroded our credibility and effectiveness in international affairs."

Three Cuban diplomats left the hall when Mr. Dhanabalan began speaking and returned after he finished.

Both Mr. Dhanabalan and Pakistani Foreign Minister Agha Shahi said the movement could only maintain its credibility by demanding the withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan and Cambodia - a demand opposed by Soviet allies within the movement.

The Pakistani minister said the Soviet "occupation" of Afghanistan, one of the non-aligned movement's oldest members, was not only a violation of its independence but a threat to international stability.

Later, Kabul radio quoted Afghan President Babrak Karmal as saying he would welcome any initiative by the conference to bring about a political settlement on Afghanistan.

The radio, monitored here, said Mr. Karmal sent a message to the conference expressing his "readiness to sit around a table with our neighbors to find a political solution in and around Afghanistan on the basis of our May 14 proposals."

Those proposals called for direct talks with Iran and Pakistan as well as international guarantees of non-interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs. But Mr. Karmal's message added that "Afghanistan is prepared to study any other counter-initiative made in conformity with the May declaration and based on good will."

The New Delhi meeting started with widespread divisions along the 96 members about major international issues such as Afghanistan, the Iran-Iraq war and Vietnam's involvement in Cambodia.

Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, whose father Jawaharlal Nehru was a founding member of the movement, said in an opening speech that the big powers are using economic and military threats to turn non-aligned countries against each other.

Pleading for unity, she said: "Divided we are vulnerable, united we can and shall prevail.

"We are here not to juggle with words but to find a way to reinforce the authority and effectiveness of the non-aligned movement," Mrs. Gandhi said.

Her speech was matched by similar appeals from foreign ministers speaking on behalf of the group's regional blocs - Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe.

Lok Dal splits

New Delhi, Jan. 29 (UNI) - Charan Singh's Lok Dal faces another split following the expulsion by its Central Parliamentary Board here last night of three of its senior leaders - former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Banarsi Das, and Chandrajit Yadav and Syed Ahmed Hashmi, both Members of Parliament.

Immediately after the Board's action, Mr. Yadav, in a strongly-worded statement, described the action against them as "autocratic, resorted to at the behest of party President Charan Singh even without observing the norms laid down for taking disciplinary action".

Mr. Yadav announced that he and Mr. Banarsi Das would hold two conventions of Lok Dal workers -- one at Lucknow in the middle of February and another later in New Delhi - to expose the self-centred political designs of Charan Singh and also to chart out their future political course of action".

Lok Dal sources, however, ruled out any major split in the party.

The Parliamentary Board also authorised U.P. Party President Mulayam Singh Yadav to proceed against the supporters of Mr. Yadav and Mr. Banarsi Das in Uttar Pradesh in a manner he "deemed fit".

Besides Charan Singh, Party General-Secretary Madhu Limaye and Party Secretaries Satyapal Malik, Rameshwar Singh and S.P. Gautam were present at the Lok Dal Parliamentary Board's three-hour meeting.

The Parliamentary Board of the Lok Dal had in an urgent meeting on Thursday under the presidentship of Charan Singh, expelled Mr. Yadav, Banarsi Das and Mr. Hashmi from the party.

It may be recalled that Charan Singh had issued a charge-sheet against Mr. Yadav and suspended him thereafter. The last meeting of the Lok Dal's National Executive held recently had given Mr. Yadav 15 days "to make amends", but before the expiry of the date, Mr. Yadav was expelled.

Mr. Banarsi Das had earlier resigned as the Treasurer of the party, criticising Charan Singh's "style of functioning".

Bird suicide mystery

Calcutta, (UNI) - The newly created Department of Environment of the West Bengal government plans to help ornithologists of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) to unravel the "mystery of birds committing suicide" at Jatinga in Assam -- a phenomenon still baffling scientists.

Dr. Sudhin Sengupta was the first ornithologist to observe that hundreds of birds dashed to the source of artificial light in a fixed region of the tiny village of Jatinga near Haflong on the Barail Hill in Assam and remained there hypnotised till they died.

Dr. Sengupta, who conducted studies in 1977 and 1978, is planning to make his third mission to Jatinga in May to make a full scientific probe aimed at unfolding the "suicide mystery of birds" that has drawn global attention.

Dr. Sengupta, during his earlier studies of the phenomenon, recorded that impelled by several definite environmental factors hundreds of birds made for the lighted "death trap" between Jatinga Railway Station and the village health centre at night in September and October.

"The birds remain in a hypnotised condition in the lighted area till death and make no attempt to escape", he told UNI.

Dr. Sengupta closely studied both the behaviour of the birds and the various geo-environmental conditions of the "death trap" and summed up four probable causes.

Dr. Sengupta felt that the peculiar eco-physiography of the place had something to do with the mystery. He felt the geological conditions of the place were such that the environmental condition probably produced a sharp change in the magnetic properties of the underground storage of water in that region, thereby temporarily affecting the magnetic field in that particular area.

He also felt that electrical conditions in the atmosphere might have a role in the Jatinga mystery. Changes of weather, accompanied by storm and rains, increased the intensity of the atmosphere and this appeared to influence the behaviour of birds when they dashed to the source of light.

Passport forgers nabbed

New Delhi, Jan. 29 (UNI) - With the arrest of two persons Delhi Police today claimed to have busted a major passport-visa racket.

Thirteen passports bearing visa endorsements for entry to Pakistan were recovered from the suspects, a police spokesman said. He said the suspects -- Iqbal and Ayub -- duped gullible persons coming to Delhi for obtaining visas to visit Pakistan.

The visa endorsements were forged on the passports for payments at the rate of Rs 300 (38 dollars) to Rs 1100 (137 dollars).

Station House Officer Roop Chand of Chanakyapuri Police Station said one of the suspects was arrested on January 24 while striking a deal outside the Pakistan Embassy here. He was found to be in possession of three passports with forged stamp markings.

The other accused was nabbed at his residence. Ten passports with forged visa endorsements and the material used for committing the forgery were recovered from his house.

Efforts are continuing to track down the other three accomplices in the racket.

A pilot's dilemma

From Our India Correspondent

Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, the son of India's prime minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, has an interesting choice of careers before him. He can become a major political figure, second in India perhaps only to Mrs. Gandhi, or he can remain an airline pilot. If the choice were left to him the indications are that he would remain a pilot. He likes flying and has done well: recently he got a licence to fly big Boeings. He has publicly expressed his contempt for politics and politicians, a view that is shared by the other woman in his life, his Italian wife Sonia.

But he is not being left alone. The death of his better-known brother Sanjay in a flying accident last June left a vacuum that many politicians are convinced Rajiv was born to fill. Despite his rejection of politics, a new power centre is growing around him in New Delhi. All manner of political petitioners, among them cabinet ministers and state chief ministers, queue up to plead their case, confident that a word from him to his mother will work miracles. Unlike his hustler brother, 37-year-old Rajiv is contemplative and (apart from flying) unambitious. Such qualities, far from deterring his suitors, only make him more desirable.

In New Delhi the political network erected by Sanjay is steadily losing power and influence to a new coterie consisting of Rajiv's insistent friends. Mrs. Gandhi has always enjoyed playing off party factions against each other, and the Sanjay group is being cut down to size. The Sanjay representative operating from her house has been replaced by a Rajiv enthusiast. The new coterie is already influencing appointments and the distribution of party patronage, and could grow into a major political force.

But Mrs. Gandhi has more immediate matters to attend to than the political wooing of a reluctant son. Elected to office a year ago on the promise of providing a government that works, her rule has been characterised by anarchy and drift. Social and economic problems were neglected while she recreated a neofeudal regime loyal to her personally. She spent her first six months in office doing little more than replacing thousands of civil servants appointed by the previous government. Her obsession with persons rather than policies has not resulted in good government.

She has, however, been lucky with the rain gods. After a good monsoon, food grain production is expected to jump by 20 per cent to a record 135m tonnes, and the harvest has already led to a fall in prices for the first time in almost two years. The monsoon has filled reservoirs and boosted electricity output. Industrial production in November and December went up by an estimated 8 per cent. Because of rising oil prices the trade gap has doubled to $5 billion, but borrowings of $818m from the International Monetary Fund and a sharp increase in invisible receipts have kept the balance of payments in tolerable shape. The foreign exchange reserves have fallen by $700m but still amount to a respectable $6 billion.

Mrs. Gandhi has introduced preventive detention for black-marketeers and people "endangering public order". She has tried to bully the judiciary by transferring a number of high court judges, one of whom has resigned in protest. These acts have been denounced by opposition parties as portents of dictatorship. But the detention laws have not been misused, and civil liberties look distinctly more secure than when Mrs. Gandhi returned to power a year ago.

The dead Sanjay Gandhi was the main threat to democracy. There was some grief but much relief at his death, and dissent has seemed safer ever since. Rajiv Gandhi is not built in the dictatorial mould. Should his influence grow, its effect on Mrs. Gandhi can only be good.

[The Economist].

Sheikh Abdullah to quit

Jammu, (UNI) - Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Sheikh Abdullah has announced his decision to relinquish his office and also presidentship of the National Conference (NC).

Talking to newsmen here, the 76-year-old Chief Minister said that it had always been his desire that the younger generation should come forward and take the reigns of the State party (NC leadership.

The Sheikh said his decision to relinquish the two posts should not be construed as his desire to retire from politics as "I have been in politics for fifty years now".

But he added: "I consider it a long period, and feel I should retreat".

In reply to a question, he said his son Dr. Farooq Abdullah, MP, had entered politics. But some vested interests were naming both Dr. Abdullah and his son-in-law, Kashmir Works Minister G.M. Shah, as his successor. The vested interests' main motive was to divide his party, the Sheikh said, adding that the decision would ultimately rest with the Party.

A State convention of the National Conference will be held in the first week of March to elect a new party president, it is learnt.

The State Assembly elections were due to be held in 1983.

Expensive rose oil

New Delhi, (UNI) - 2.5 tonnes of fresh rose blossoms are required to produce just one kg of rose oil. For extracting one kg of jasmine oil it would be necessary to crush 0.3 tonne of jasmine flowers. This was revealed at a seminar on perfumes and flavours industry held here.

The rose oil and jasmine oil sell at the international markets at a price of 3,750 dollars and 1,500 dollars respectively.

DEVICES TO CHECK ROAD ACCIDENTS

New Delhi, (UNI) - Two electronic devices to check the high rate of accidents on highways, called the "fog detector" and the "parking light device" have been developed by a scientist in the north Indian state of Punjab.

Both the instruments are based on the principle of light-scanning.

India's industrial base

Continued from Page 5

year and follows a year when national income dropped substantially.

The Government has set its sights by aiming at an average growth rate of 5 per cent during the current sixth five-year plan period. But if the current year is any indication, the performance is not likely to be much better than the annual average of 3.5 per cent of the past three decades.

The world situation is hardly helpful at a time when domestic economic indicators are not exactly hopeful.

This report is by David Housego and K.K. Sharma, correspondents of the Financial Times of London.

FILMS

PATITA

Directed by I V Sasi
Produced by Pramod Chakravorty

Her Nights (Malayalam) was a sensation in Kerala and brought many things into spotlight, the two among them being director I V Sasi as a film-maker of style with sexy overtones, and Seema, the leading lady of the film who from an extra became a star overnight, both for her performance and physique, especially the leg-show. While Seema chalked out her screen career successfully in Sasi's films and independently, Sasi took up many more daring themes, like in **Man Ka Aangan** (husband's impotency and wife seeking her sexual salvation with a variety of men). Sasi became a much discussed director and Seema reached the top in Malayalam cinema. When both got married last year it was quite natural.

Patita is a Hindi remake of **Her Nights** (which ran into Censor trouble owing to unscrupulous exhibitors adding 'sexy' scenes which were not there in the original), with plotline remaining the same but a few changes and concessions to the box-office. 'Patita' (fallen angel) here is Shoma Anand, not physically as attractive as Seema in **Her Nights**, and not as innocent looking either as her character is supposed to be. Circumstances force her to sell herself. A baby-brother left to her charge (her parents die in a flood devastation) she became a call girl, selling her body yet keeping her 'soul' intact.

The three men in her life are poles apart: a playboy (Mithun Chakravorty) a kind-hearted school teacher (Vikram) and a collegian (Raj Kiran) sandwiched between the call girl and his fiance. There is a fourth man too, a rikshawala who is more of a pimp than per patron. Owing to excessive drinking, the playboy dies with cirrhosis of the liver, the school-teacher gets himself transferred when he cannot stand the students' ire at his bungling, and the collegian's mother accepts her as daughter-in-law after some hesitation. The fallen angel gets rehabilitated in a respectable society, the cherished goal of all prostitutes.

There are more dramatic situations in **Patita** than there were in **Her Nights**, and there is more box-office attraction-cabarets, a semi-clad heroine, fights-yet the character of the fallen angel is not as alluring as Seema's in the original.

Mithun Chakravorty is trying hard to become the sex symbol of Hindi cinema, stealing the title from Jeetendra and Dharmendra. Vikram's schoolteacher is as natural as it could be, and Raj Kiran looks every inch a collegian in spite of his bulk.

Bappi Lahiri's musical score has many mellifluous notes and Anand Bakshi writes songs with characters and situations getting proper descriptions.

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Bappi Lahiri's musical score has many melliflous notes and Anand Bakshi writes songs with characters and situations getting proper descriptions.

HUM PAANCH

Directed by Bapu
Produced by Surinder Kapoor

Hum Paanch is about five young men who fight the feudal tyranny and overlordship of a man who believes in double standards. Outwardly he is a pious soul, a protector and provider of his people but in actuality he is an embodiment of immorality and deception. Outwardly he prays, goes to temple and distributes charity. Secretively he plays with the emotions of young women, refuses to pay wages to his servants, grabs others' property and encourages his younger brother to become a drunkard so that he would not demand his share of the ancestral property; does not tolerate his son's rebellious nature and turns him out of the village, and is responsible for his sister's ruination. The five young men, each one nursing a grouse against him for one reason or the other, join together to humiliate this devil-in-the-guise-of a-devata and put an end to his feudal exploitation. It is a kind of a Mahabharata-five Pandavas with Lord Krishna at their back, fighting against a well-armed, well-defended enemy.

The film's plotting is unusual and the shooting location-a hilly landscape-extraordinary. It is a Hindi remake of a Telugu film, also directed by Bapu, which in itself was a remake of **Paduvaarahalli Pandavaru** (Kannada) directed by the well-known Kannada director Puttanna Kanagal, who has created for himself the image of an off-beat director. Bapu came into the limelight with **Jeevan Jyoti**, and in **Hum Paanch** he supersedes himself. Shot entirely out-doors in a somewhat difficult terrain, its locale adding an extra dimension to the theme, Bapu confirms himself as a master craftsman not only in shot taking and camera movements but also in creating depth in his characters, and drama even in ordinary situations. In this he is helped by Vinay Shukla, associate writer-director, who has written the dialogue wrapped with local flavour and dramatic fervour, Sharda Kadwe's photography, camera angles and flowing images bring him among the front-rankers.

Going by the cast, **Hum Paanch** is almost a multi-starrer. Amrish Puri is in his elements as the feudal lord. Sanjeev Kumar as his drunkard-brother and friend-philosopher-and-guide of 'hum paanch' is a model of sobriety. Naseeruddin Shah, Mithun Chakravorty, Gulshan Grover, Raj Babbar, and Uday Chandra are the 'hum paanch' and they play their roles with youthful elan and energetic vibrancy.

Shabana Azmi as the wronged woman has a small role but she essays it with her usual confidence. Dipti Naval's face is a kaleidoscope of emotions. A village belle's role is not new to her, she has earlier done it to perfection in **Chirutha**. In **Hum Paanch** also she wins our heart.

[Darshak in Democratic World]

Malayalam films not porno

New Delhi, (UNI) - The charge that Malayalam films are more sexy and tending to be pornographic was strenuously refuted by the noted film-maker G. Aravindan in a chat with newsmen here. He said film directors in Kerala were less inhibited than their counterparts in other regions of the country on the subject of sex.

Mr. Aravindan, who was a member of the International Jury of the recently concluded Eighth International Film Festival of India (IFFA) held here said gulf money, although it had found its way into the budgets of Malayalam film-makers, did not have any over-riding effect on the native or quality of the films.

Painter, cartoonist, composer and theatre-man, Aravindan is renowned for his low-budget yet colourful films. Asked for the reasons for this, Mr. Aravindan said he chose from the village location itself actors who had talent and were willing to accept nominal charges. His style was to stay in a small house in the village with his crew along and shoot the film at a stretch, completing it within 15 to 25 days.

Mr. Aravindan said he made conscious efforts to be different in form and style in all his films. His films, he said, had done well, enabling him to recover the investment. "Kummatty", a film for children based on folklore about a bogey man, had even been sold to television networks abroad. "Esthappan", his latest film, was included in the Indian Panorama of the Eighth IFFI.

Cinema in Kerala, Mr. Aravindan said, was successful because the Film Society movement had permeated to the village level over the years.

He said it was essential to curtail film production costs which had escalated in the recent months due to the steep rise in the prices of raw film.

The Kerala State Film Development Corporation could play an important role in promoting the film industry, Mr. Aravindan said.

Opium addicts live longer

Nagpur (Maharashtra), (UNI) - An opium addict lives longer despite the stress and strain of life, according to a research paper presented at the four-day joint annual conference of the Association of Physicians of India, which concluded here on January 22.

The paper, titled "long live opium addicts", was jointly prepared by Dr. Ramakant Das, Dr. S.S. Mishra, Dr. R.S. Panda, Dr. S.C. Mohanty and Dr. C.K. Mishra from Orissa and based on a study of 127 opium addicts, including 23 women.

The study was taken up to evaluate the health status of the addicts.

Seventy per cent of the addicts were in 60-79 age group, while 12 per cent were octagenarians and non-agenarians. Most of them were poor and had been addicts for more than 20 years, nine of them having regularly consumed opium for over 50 years.

Nearly 50 per cent of them had started on the drug to abate some sort of pain, while one in every three had taken to it because of breathing trouble and one in every four because of chronic cough. Chronic diarrhoea, bronchial ailments, filaria and malaria were also named as causative drives.

The majority were able to move and walk about despite their age, though they were either euphoric or depressed. Five of the addicts were found to be hypertensive, 25 had chronic bronchitis and two were suffering from chronic heart ailments, but electro-cardiograms and chest x-rays revealed no significant abnormality that could be attributed to their addiction.

Cops dismissed

Gwalior, Jan. 29 (UNI) Tense calm prevailed at Gwalior in the Central Indian State of Madhya Pradesh today after yesterday's takeover of the police and state armouries by the Border Security Force (BSF) and dismissals of 135 policemen for indiscipline and disobedience on the night of January 20 at the mela police station here.

Officials, however, described the situation as under "full control" and said the city police force seemed to be in "a state of coma" after the takeover. Their reaction could only be gauged after two or three days, the officials said.

Meanwhile, police sources said the BSF had also taken control of the police armouries in the neighbouring town of Morena.

The police officials said the dismissals were not "indiscriminate" and action was taken only after verification of those who indulged in "rioting" on January 20.

About 150 agitating policemen at the mela (festival) police station had forced the administration to release six policemen and six home guards on bail after they were arrested for their alleged involvement in violent clashes at the mela on January 18. The chowkidar of a sweetmeat shop at the mela was killed, 35 others were injured and the shop burnt down during the clashes.

Earlier, official sources said about 100 policemen had been served dismissal notices and prohibitory orders under Sec. 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code were clamped in the city for an indefinite period.

The sources said some arrests had been made, but they refused to disclose the number.

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Helping to preserve heritage

By Gina Wilkins

Although French and English are the official languages of Canada, examination of the diverse cultural background of its citizens - more than a quarter of the population comes from non-British or non-French countries - could lead one to assume that Canada is a country of many different languages.

The fact is that, in the 1971 census, only about 14 per cent of the population listed their mother tongues as something other than English or French. Perhaps more surprising is the fact that only seven per cent indicated that the language spoken in the home was not one of the official languages.

These statistics may indicate that the "melting pot" effect, commonly attributed to the United States, is creeping into the Canadian experience. Instead of being the mosaic it has always prided itself in being, Canada may actually be blending into one cultural being.

Dr. Sid Sodhi of Dalhousie's education department does not want to see this happen. He especially does not want the Canadians of his own ethnic background, East Indian, to lose the knowledge of their own language and cultural heritage that he feels is so important.

To help East Indian parents of a like mind across Canada, Dr. Sodhi is preparing a series of teaching books on the "at least 18" official languages of India. The first book, **Teach Your Child Punjabi, The Language of the Punjab**, came out as an experimental edition in December, 1975. Produced in collaboration with S.A. and Lillian Ismaily, the book was printed at the Dalhousie University Printing Centre and was then distributed by mail to about 70 Punjabi associations across the country. The associations were also given the rights to reproduce the book, should more copies be needed.

Response to the Punjabi book was so favourable that in 1979 Dr. Sodhi, again in collaboration with the Ismailys and with S.S. Malik, produced **Teach Your Child Hindi, the Language of India.** This book was also mailed out, this time to about 50 Hindi associations, with the same rights to reproduction.

Another book, including lessons in English, French, Hindi and Punjabi, is scheduled for publication in 1981. Dr. Roseann Runte, assistant dean of arts and science at Dalhousie and chairman of the French department, collaborated with Dr. Sodhi on the French translation.

Says Dr. Sodhi: "I consider that all these children are good Canadians, but I feel that they are better off if they also retain the language of their parents."

In his introduction to **Teach Your Child Hindi**, entitled "Psycho-Educational Processes in Learning a Second Language," Dr. Sodhi explains: "Language is a tool of communication. Our native tongue enables us to express our needs, desires and emotions to significant persons in our environment. But the advantages of multilingualism are fairly clear. The addition of other languages to the linguistic ability of a person can improve his ability to communicate with his fellow men who employ different languages. It helps the individual in conducting his personal and public business in different countries and makes travelling a more rewarding experience."

Dr. Sodhi himself is actively trying to make his culture more accessible to not only his fellow Indo-Canadians, but also to the public through his largely one-man effort with Halifax Cablevision, a weekly half hour television show called **India Is.** That television show has been so successful that tapes of 10 selected programs have been sent to several interested cable stations and Indian associations in Manitoba. Requests from other cable stations across Canada are also expected.

Another effort he has made to help his people to further understand their roots is a book called **Readings in Sikhism**, which he edited. The book is a collection of 25 articles on various aspects of the Sikh culture, four of which Dr. Sodhi wrote himself.

Along with the 16 other handbooks he has in his future, Dr. Sodhi also plans a series of audio-visual kits to accompany the language lessons. The kits will include about 68 slides per language and an example of the exact pronunciation of the language on tapes.

For further information on the books or the audio-visual programs, contact Dr. Sid Sodhi at 424-2591.

(University News).

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IDA loan for Madras project

The International Development Association (IDA), the World Bank's affiliate for concessionary lending, has approved a credit of SDR 32.6 million ($42 million) to India for a second urban development project to be carried out in Madras.

Madras, the capital of Tamil Nadu state, is an important trade and commercial center and one of the most rapidly growing metropolitan centers in India. Its present population is estimated at 4.8 million. IDA approved a $24 million credit in 1977 for a first urban development project in Madras.

The $88 million second Madras urban development project includes: (a) the development of about 15,000 residential and about 200 industrial plots on two sites totalling about 180 hectares, together with construction and machinery loans and provision of community services; (b) provision of basic infrastructure and land tenure to about 50,000 slum households and provision of home improvement loans and grants to about 80,000 slum households; (c) purchase of about 550 buses and depot improvements for Pallavan Transport Corporation and construction and improvement of two roads linking sites and services areas to employment centers; (d) civil works and equipment to improve solid waste collection and infrastructure maintenance in the Madras Municipal Corporation; and (e) technical assistance and training for implementing agencies.

The IDA credit to India is for 50 years, including 10 years of grace. It does not carry interest but bears a service charge of 3/4 of 1 per cent per annum.

NEW DRUG FOR RHEUMATISM

New Delhi, (UNI) - For the first time in the history of Indian medicine, a new drug, conceived and evolved by Indian scientists, will be available for treatment of rheumatism and related disorders.

The new drug, "Tromaril", has been developed by the Regional Research Laboratory (RRL), Hyderabad.

"Tromaril" has undergone extensive clinical trials in India for over ten years.

NACOI NEWS

Immigration Regulations and Delays

The Canada Immigration Centre informs NACOI that normal time taken by their Delhi office for finalizing cases of different immigration categories is as follows:

Parents 200 days
Spouses 410 days
Assisted Relatives 464 days
Others 476 days

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

In response to representation of Gulshan Saini, Vice-President of Institute of Professionals, the Federal Treasury Board had informed the Canadian Human Rights Commission last year that persons intending to avail of religious holidays may have it subject to exigencies of the work as may be decided by Head of a federal department. The Human Rights Commission asked NACOI for a list of religious holidays/festivals in year 1981, as may be observed generally by East-Indian community.

DIFFICULTIES FACED ON VISITS TO INDIA

Reports have been received about difficulties being faced by visitors to India in respect of reservations for return journey, although it is okayed from here in advance. Immigration Clearance Certificate in respect of Indian nationals, who are residents abroad and visit India on return tickets for short visit, recently introduced by the Government of India is said to be causing delays and dislocation of return programs of individuals. Several have to face unreasonable and impolite attitude of customs and health officials. This is presenting a discouraging view to a visitor to the homeland. NACOI intends to take up the matter with the Minister concerned who has asked for specific cases to be referred to him, if any. NACOI requests you to send brief details of the cases. Confidentiality is assured.

OTTAWA
Drop-in-Centre

The NACOI Ottawa Chapter, in cooperation with local affiliated organizations, has established a number of working committees to initiate and develop policies relating to social, immigration and community issues.

The Executive of the Ottawa Chapter has agreed to support and provide $500.00 to the Indo-Canadian Women's Circle towards the establishment of a drop-in-centre. The centre will provide a wide range of social and educational guidance services including counselling and assistance to community members confronting personal/family problems etc. All will be in strict confidence.

IMMIGRATION ISSUES

A committee has been established to monitor government immigration policies and administrative practices as it affects members of the Indo-Canadian community.

QUEBEC

Montreal

Contacts with Local Government

NACOI Local Chapter and its seven affiliated organizations met the Public Relations Officer of the Department of Immigration Quebec to understand in detail, the ways and procedure by which the Local Chapter and other organizations can secure information and assistance from government's welfare, recreation and immigration services.

Local Chapter was invited to attend the Constitutional Conference of the Afro Asian Foundation of Canada, president of the Local Chapter, V. Planthara, was nominated as member of the Drafting Committee for preparation of the memorandum to be submitted by the Foundation to the government.

Local Chapter has also been approved for membership on the Quebec Council of Minorities.

With the efforts of National President, G. Khetrapal, Radio Quebec has accepted NACOI representation on its sub-committee for community radio programs for minorities in Montreal.

ALBERTA

Edmonton

Local chapters

Efforts of Robinson Koilpillai and other friends representing various community organizations in the province have resulted in the establishment of new Local Chapters in Edmonton, Calgary and Red Deer.

Man of the Year

Mr. Robinson Koilpillai, NACOI Vice-President, Alberta, was acclaimed as "Man of the Year" for year 1980. He was presented a plaque by Honourable Jim Fleming, the Federal Minister of State for Multiculturalism.

ATLANTIC

Nova Scotia

Gurmail Singh

The Chapter, in cooperation with Indo-Canadian Association of Nova Scotia, has done a very appreciable job to look after Gurmail Singh, a sailor, on an Indian ship. Funds were raised for his treatment and after care. Mr. Singh, a citizen of India, was aboard the ship MARIVIC. The vessel was taking on a cargo of coal at Sydney, Nova Scotia, where in a sudden explosion Mr. Singh received extensive burns. He was admitted to Victoria General Hospital. The Indo-Canadian Association arranged for his proper medical care and legal aid on international level to safeguard his interests of service and health, which would otherwise have been beyond his reach, had he been sent to India.

Toronto sem for teens and women

March 1, 1981 - 1 - 5 pm

Seminar: 'Teenagers in Transit Options for Women

Speakers: Dr. Marion Powell, He University of Toronto
Joane Grayson, Women's Bureau Labour

Location: Banbury Community Ce Don Mills

Admission: $1.00

March 4, 1981 - 4pm

Seminar: 'Aspects of Leadershi Community'

Speaker: Smita Sengupta, doctora

Discussant: Professor C. Jansen, University

Location: Upper Library, Massey Place

Admission: Free

March 10, 1981 12 noon, 1 pm

Film: 'A Sense of Family' by the Canada

Location: International Student Street

Admission: Free

March 10, 1981 - 8 pm

Leecture/Performance: 'South Ind

Performer: Muthulaksmi Rangan

Location: Croft Chapter House,

Admission: Free

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Ravi Shankar at Kennedy Ce

The world-renowned Indian sitar maestro, Ravi Shankar, accompanied by Alla Rakha on the Tabla, will give a performance in Washington, D.C. at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Concert Hall on Sunday, April 12, 1981 at 2:00 p.m. For further information please call (301) 535-4600.

A 16 mm documentary film on "Mother Teresa and Her

Aids for the

Ahmedabad (Gujarat), (UNI) : The National Institute of Design (NID) here has designed and fabricated a number of gadgets for disabled and handicapped children, using low-cost material.

The Institute's product designer Shailendra Yagnik told UNI that a six-day workshop for students had been organised recently, to design and fabricate inexpensive and simple devices to aid disabled and

Toronto seminar for teens and women

March 1, 1981 - 1 - 5 pm

Seminar: 'Teenagers in Transition' and 'Employment Options for Women

Speakers: Dr. Marion Powell, Head of Population Unit, University of Toronto
Joane Grayson, Women's Bureau, Ontario Ministry of Labour

Location: Banbury Community Centre, 120 Banbury Rd., Don Mills

Admission: $1.00

March 4, 1981 - 4pm

Seminar: 'Aspects of Leadership in the South Asian Community'

Speaker: Smita Sengupta, doctoral student, O.I.S.E.

Discussant: Professor C. Jansen, Dept. of Sociology, York University

Location: Upper Library, Massey College, 4 Devonshire Place

Admission: Free

March 10, 1981 12 noon, 1 pm

Film: 'A Sense of Family' by the National Film Board of Canada

Location: International Student Centre, 33 St. George Street

Admission: Free

March 10, 1981 - 8 pm

Lecture/Performance: 'South Indian Instrumental Music'

Performer: Muthulaksmi Ranganathan, vina Player

Location: Croft Chapter House, University College

Admission: Free

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444-5966, 425-7350, 447-5456 or 293-9820.

Ravi Shankar at Kennedy Centre

The world-renowned Indian sitar maestro, Ravi Shankar, accompanied by Alla Rakha on the Tabla, will give a performance in Washington, D.C. at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Concert Hall on Sunday, April 12, 1981 at 2:00 p.m. For further information please call (301) 585-4600.

A 16 mm documentary film on "Mother Teresa and Her Work" will be available for loan in the Washington area from the end of February onwards from the Information Section of Embassy of India in Washington. Anyone interested in screening the film may contact Mr. Sailo at 265-5050, Ext. 301. In view of the heavy demand the film will be loaned out only for a period of 3 days at a time.

Aids for the disabled

Ahmedabad (Gujarat), (UNI) - The National Institute of Design (NID) here has designed and fabricated a number of gadgets for disabled and handicapped children, using low-cost material.

The Institute's product designer Shailendra Yagnik told UNI that a six-day workshop for students had been organised recently, to design and fabricate inexpensive and simple devices to aid disabled and handicapped children in the age group of one to ten.

The equipment and gadgets fabricated by the students during the workshop include a walker for the one to five-year-old child, a crawler for the one to four-year-old child, a low sitting trolley for grownups, a vesticular board to provide exercise for the development of the senses, a relaxing chair for children suffering from cerebral palsy

Assam normal

Gauhati, (UNI) - Following the resumption of pumping of crude oil from Upper Assam's oilfields to Bihar's Barauni refinery yesterday, normalcy has returned in the oil front of Assam after a lapse of thirteen months.

Employees of Oil India Limited (OIL) started pumping crude oil to Barauni refinery last evening after receiving an ultimatum from the OIL management. A top OIL official said the employees had resumed full-scale pumping operations in conformity with an earlier decision taken by the All-Assam Oil Employees Coordination Committee.

The three refineries at Digboi, Gauhati and Bongaigaon are also functioning as the agitators (on the foreigners issue) have allowed them to do so in view of the acute scarcity of petroleum products in the North-Eastern region.

However, acute scarcity of kerosene continues to prevail in Assam following the non-functioning of the kerosene unit of the public sector Gauhati refinery. A spokesman of the Gauhati refinery said that the kerosene unit of the refinery was under annual maintenance work.

Ottawa drop-in centre

A drop-in-centre for women has been opened by the Indo-Canadian Women's Circle, Ottawa, in cooperation with the Ottawa Chapter of the National Association of Canadians of Origins in India (NACOI) at the Indo-Canadian Community Centre, 1346 Bank St.

The centre is open from 9:30 to 11:30 every Wednesday morning. The women of our community are invited to come (bring your pre-school children, friends) and participate in the activities. A ping-pong table is there for those interested in playing table tennis. English classes have also been started. Admission is free. Refreshments will be served.

ACTIVITIES - WORK SHOPS

Feb. 22 - Raising Children in a Multicultural Society
March 18th - Ottawa Women's Credit Union - will speak about their organization.
April 12th - Legal Status in Canada.

Refreshments will be served courtesy ICA.

May 23rd - Annual Cultural Show to raise money for Association for Handicapped and Indo-Canadian Community Centre.

For information call:

Vasanthi Srinivasan 829-0504,

Chandrika Shah - 829-3130

Nandita Bhatnagar 825-2071.

THE CALL OF MY SOUL

By Nirmala Singh

I do not cry.
I show my smiling tears.
I save my wet laughter.
Am I angry with you?
No, of course not.
My anger has laughed itself away.
I hold no grudge nor hatred for you.
No one.

ii

I defend you.
Did you know that?
I praise you.
The past stands before me still
My future...
Is it moving ahead or moving back?
What's mine?
What's yours?
Is this a "call"?

iii

I try to ignore what the world says.
I try to ignore you
Everything...everyone...
Even the world and the clothes I wear.
I try to ignore my very existence,
The call of my soul.

iv

Love could be divine.
Love...
I wanted to stop this months ago.
Do you remember?
No, you don't.
You do not know what I knew then.
I do not know what you know now.

v

I confess:
"I care, even though I never told you so."
What ever happened?
We just never talked.
And I always said "no."
You do not like these memories.
There is a mirror between us.
Who has seen the mirror?
Alright:
I shall discontinue this trend.
Think of our transformation.

South Asianists elect executive

The South Asia Council Executive Committee has selected its officers. Dr. M.V. Naidu of Brandon University was selected as SAC Chairman, Dr. Muhammad Fayyaz of Queen's University as Secretary Treasurer, and Professor Mohammad Qadeer as Council representative to the 1981 CASA Annual Conference Programme Committee. Other members of the Executive Committee are Dr. A.N. Aklujkar of the University of British Columbia, Professor Ian Kerr of the University of Manitoba and Professor Abdul Zia of Laurentian University.

South Asian conference

Dr. Joseph Tharamangalam of Mount St. Vincent University in Halifax is Chairman of the Local Arrangements Committee for the upcoming Annual Conference. Members of the Committee are Professor Ruth Gamberg of Dalhousie University, Professor J.J. Mangalam of Dalhousie University, Professor Mary Boyd of St. Mary's University, Dr. Jane Keys of Mount St. Vincent University and Dr. Hari Das of St. Mary's University.

Guide for seniors

February 2, 1981 -- a new booklet, in six languages, has been produced by the Ontario Secretary for Social Development to explain to senior citizens all services available to them from the municipal, provincial and federal governments, as well as many private agencies.

Entitled GUIDE FOR SENIOR CITIZENS, "It is intended that the booklet will make it easier for senior citizens to find the right kind of service they may require," said Margaret Birch.

The booklet is available in English, French, Italian, Greek, Portuguese and Cantonese.

Designed as a referral book, the guide is indexed by major groupings and further indexed by common usage, such as "wills" or "consumer complaints." The programs are briefly described along with an address and telephone number where more detailed information is available.

A copy of the booklet will be mailed to every senior citizen in Ontario who receives the federal old age security pension.

India to benefit from IMF scheme

New Delhi, (UNI) - India will be one of the 69 low-income developing countries, which will benefit from the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) new scheme to subsidise supplementary drawals from the fund to meet its balance of payments.

To help the low-income developing countries, the fund has recently established a one billion SDR account to subsidise supplementary drawings.

India will be eligible for a subsidy not exceeding three per cent a year.

The amounts of the subsidy to eligible members will be paid, as soon as practicable, after the end of the fund's financial year on April 30.

Sixty nine low-income developing countries, including India will be eligible for the full subsidy not exceeding three per cent a year. Fourteen developing countries, with somewhat higher per capita incomes, will be eligible for one-half of the subsidy.

The fund's supplementary financing facility, which came into force on February 23, 1979, is financed from resources borrowed by the fund from 13 members. It was established to enable the fund to provide supplementary financing, in conjunction with the use of the fund's ordinary resources, to members which are facing serious payments imbalances that are large in relation to their quotas.

The IMF had in 1976 established a trust fund to provide concessional balance of payments assistance to eligible developing members. It was financed with profits from the sale of gold by the fund. In the four-year period from June 1976 to May 1980, the fund sold 25 million ounces of gold, yielding a profit of $4600 million. It was transferred to the trust fund.

Commercial consuls meet

New Delhi, (UNI) - Representatives of the commercial wings of all the Indian missions in West Asian and North African countries (WANA) will meet in Dubai for two days next month to take stock of the India's trade in the region.

India's Commerce Minister Pranab Mukherjee, will preside over the meeting, which opened on February 1.

T.S.K. Subramaniam, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Commerce, who is in charge of the West Asia and North Africa division told UNI that there had been a sea change in trading in these countries since the start of oil boom. Some of them now want the best of the consumer goods available in the world. India is capable of meeting some of their requirements. But it has not been able to make a dent in those markets proportionate to its capabilities. India's exports in the agriculture and engineering sectors, among others, in the WANA region will be reviewed in this context at the "in-house stock-taking meeting" in Dubai.

Male or female by choice

New Delhi, (UNI) - Veterinary experts in the United Kingdom claim that now it is possible for a farmer to have a male or female calf by choice through artificial insemination.

Disclosing this to newsmen, Dr. V. Kurien, Chairman of the Indian National Dairy Development Board, said he was getting in touch with the U.K. Dairy Authorities to see how soon the technology can be brought to India.

Dr. Kurien said in this latest research, the sperms which determine the sex of the offspring would be separated into male-and-female-producing ones. During artificial insemination, only suitable sperms would be injected to get the calf of the desired sex.

Bus fares protested

Bombay, (UNI) - Three thousand people were arrested all over the Indian State of Maharashtra on January 15 to frustrate the Opposition parties' attempt to organise a State-wide blockage of State transport buses in protest against the 'exhorbitant' increase in bus fares.

The Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC) has raised the fares by nearly 40 per cent from January 14.

The "bandh" (stoppage of activity) called by all opposition parties, including the Bharatiya Janata Party, passed off peacefully barring a few incidents of stoning at buses in various parts of the State.

Circus death toll mounts

New Delhi, Feb. 9 - A fire that turned a southern Indian circus into an inferno on Saturday took six more lives, authorities reported yesterday, raising the official death toll to at least 56. Officials in the city of Bangalore where the tragedy occurred appealed for blood donations to help the hundreds of injured struggling for survival. United News of India said unconfirmed reports put the death toll at 92 while other news accounts said the blaze may have claimed more than 100 lives. Many of those hurt were children. Some were trampled to death.

THREE NEW FISHING CENTRES TO BE CREATED IN INDIA

New Delhi, (UNI) - The creation of three new major fishing centres in India to exploit full potential of the fish industry has been recommended by the White Fish Authority and A and P Appledore (International) Limited - the former a government body and the latter a private one in Britain - in a joint study of the Indian Fish Industry sponsored by the Union Government.

Cycle exports increase

New Delhi, (UNI) - The major importers of Indian bicycles and its components are Africa, followed by West Asia, South-East Asia and the United States.

India is the fifth largest manufacturer of bicycles in the world, with United States at the top, followed by the Soviet Union, China and Japan.

India's installed capacity for bicycle manufacture is 4.5 million units. The industry has registered a 120-fold increase since 1947, when its capacity was 37,000 units.

India also manufactures the conventional roadster bicycle which is still in demand in the developing countries of Asia and Africa.

Bicycle components have a large share in the bicycle industry's total exports from India. The value of cycle parts exceeds 2000 million dollars, while complete bicycles account for 700 million dollars.

Long lasting fuel

New Delhi, (UNI) - Soak pulses and rice for different intervals of time before cooking. This will help in saving consumption of valuable fuel.

India's Petroleum Conservation Research Association has this interesting bit of information for the housewife.

Experimentally, it has been found out that 250 gms of Kabuli Channa (White Gram) when soaked overnight, consumes 22 per cent less fuel than the same quantity of unsoaked article.

The research association was formed to plan for and promote petroleum conservation through improvement in operating practices and equipment.

Duty free shop

New Delhi, (UNI) - India's capital city will soon have a duty free shop in Ashoka Hotel.

The only existing duty free shop in the Indian capital at present is in the international departure lounge at the Delhi airport.

The new duty free shop in Ashoka Hotel is likely to be opened before the conference of foreign ministers of non-aligned countries in New Delhi next month.

Protein from wastes

Indore, (UNI) - Edible and palatable Protein Hydrolysates could be derived from soyabean and groundnut wastes and used in foods and drugs, a researcher claims.

The Hydrolysates could be used in soft drinks and in bread, biscuit, macaroni and related products, according to Chief Researcher R.M. Gupta of the Yeola Food Laboratory.

Cereal flour used for such preparations could also be enriched with such Hydrolysates.

Consortium for bulk cargo

New Delhi, (UNI) - The India, Pakistan and Bangladesh Conference (IPBC) proposes to set up from April one a container consortium of its shipping lines that will help in expeditious movement of bulk cargo.

A meeting of the conference will be held in London next month to work out the details, according to a spokesman for the Shipping Corporation of India.

So far nine shipping lines, three of them Indian, have agreed to join the consortium, which will have a number of vessels from each line reserved for it.

The shippers will have the facility of the cargo being delivered to interland destinations through rail or road from the continental ports of Rotterdam and Hamburg.

The shipping lines joining the consortium are the Shipping Corporation of India, India Steamship Company and Scindia Steam Navigation Company (all Indian), The P and O, Ellerman Lines and Clan Shipping (all British), the Pakistan Shipping Corporation and Neddloyd Shipping Lines and Hapag-loyod Lines (both Continental).

The consortium is likely to operate from London and Bombay. It is proposed to have fixed tariff rates, but the rates will be kept somewhat flexible to counter the competition from the non-conference container shipping lines.

Indian aid sought

Bangkok, (UNI) - A three-day technical seminar organised here during the Indian Engineering Exhibition (INDEE-81) has helped project India's image as an industrially developed country which could provide technical assistance to all developing nations in the region.

Senior officials from India, Thailand, Indonesia, Philippines and Malaysia discussed at the Seminar various subjects such as development of agriculture, small scale industries, water supply and power.

According to E.D. Shah, Chairman of the Indian Engineering Export Promotion Council, and leader of his country's team at the exhibition, India is a reliable source to meet the requirements of all countries in the region. It could also undertake any project including management and training of personnel for these nations.

Mr. Shah said the Malaysian delegation was eager to get help from India in agricultural development. Indonesia also wanted to import machine tools from India, he said.

Accountants needed

Jaipur (Rajasthan), (UNI) - Indian Chartered Accountants are in great demand in the Gulf countries. Already 1,500 of them are employed in various oil producing countries.

A delegation by the Indian Institute of Chartered Accountants has been sent to these countries to explore the potential for job opportunities there for Indian Chartered accountants.

The Chairman of the conference committee for the tenth all-India annual conference of chartered accountants has said as compared to other countries, the Indian chartered accountants are favourably placed in the Gulf countries mainly due to the higher remuneration offered by them.

Good going for a while

Karimnagar, (UNI) - A village belle in India has lost some of her valuables and much of her mental peace because she erred in recognising her man.

Balamma, a washerwoman in Vilasagar in Vemulavada Taluk in Andhra Pradesh was abandoned by her husband Mallaiah ten years ago, three years after marriage and just before a daughter was born by him.

Recently another washerman of the same village, Devaiah, reported that he saw a man in Nasik, in the neighbouring State of Maharashtra, who looked very much like Mallaiah, Mallaiah's mother and some other relatives, accompanied by Devaiah, rushed to Nasik, met the man and persuaded him to come to Vilasagar.

The man, whose name is not known, came and spent five days of conjugal bliss with Balamma and, realising that it was too good to last, decamped with some money and valuables. Balamma's people lodged a complaint with the police.

The real Mallaiah, who had gone to Pune, came back to the village while the imposter was living with his wife. But he had a hard time establishing his claim to his wife or indeed his identity. They believed him only after he had narrated some incidents which took place ten years ago which only a resident of the village would have known. By then the imposter had fled.

Mallaiah's mother and relations have left again for Nasik, along with Devaiah, to get even with the imposter.

SOLAR REFRIGERATION UNIT DEVELOPED

Rajkot (Gujarat) - A solar refrigeration unit of one tonne capacity has been designed, fabricated and installed by the Central Salt and Marine Chemicals Research Institute (CSMCRI) in India.

The refrigeration unit is the first step towards designing solar-powered cold storages and ice factories for the non-electrified villages producing perishable food like vegetables and fruits.

KITCHEN

By Pranati SenGu

It is undeniable that any food taste and cravings of the author. column. I have often said that so here are those related to my chil Like most people, I have a spe certain foods. Being a Benga yearning for fish, especially t America as shad. Even though has a special appeal because resembles white fish, except th softer. The scale of fresh sha Europeans and Westerners lo beluga, sterlet, keta, or dog-sal roe just once, they will com distinctive taste of shad roe is gently fried in ghee and serv coriander leaves, green chili a juice. There are many ways because it is a bony fish, it is mo roe. Fried shad roe cooked in a tamarind liquid was our favo days.

Fried Shad Roes

2 large roes (from one large sh
½ cup rice flour
¼ tsp. turmeric
pinch of salt
¼ tsp. black pepper
About ½ cup ghee or melted b
juice of fresh lemon (about 1 t
2 fresh green chilies, (cut in th carefully remove all the seeds,
2 to 3 tbsp. chopped fresh cor
Salt and pepper to taste.

Wash the roes, being careful outer membrane. Blanch roe seconds. Drain, rinse with cold on paper towels. Combine ric black pepper in a pie plate.

Gently roll the roes in rice flou Melt ghee in a large frying pan medium heat about 10 minute until crisp and golden. Rem Sprinkle a little salt and blac remaining hot ghee in frying p lemon juice over the roes. Ga coriander leaves.

Netaji's bi celebrate

The 85th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose was celebrated all over India on January 23.

In West Bengal, the day began with prabhat pheries and garlanding of Netaji's statue in different parts of the state. In Calcutta, the Chief Minister, Jyoti Basu, placed a wreath at Netaji's statue just outside the Raj Bhavan. Mr. Basu described Netaji as a great leader, who inspired the whole nation to fight against imperialism. Hundreds of people visited the ancestral home of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose in South Calcutta.

At Cuttack, the birth place of Netaji, several functions were organised to pay tribute to his memory. At Netaji Seva Sadan, a flag-hoisting ceremony was held on the morning of January 23. An all-religious function was held at the Idagah later in the evening.

In Delhi, several functions were organised in different parts of the city to mark the occasion. At a function at

Third airl

New Delhi, (UNI) - "Vayadoot" the third level air service in India, stared operation from January 26.

The operation of the new service is initially confined to the north-eastern region connecting areas which are not covered by Indian Airlines.

the Union Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation.

KITCHEN KORNER

By Pranati SenGupta

It is undeniable that any food column will reflect the taste and cravings of the author. It is certainly true in this column. I have often said that some of the foods presented here are those related to my childhood in Bengal (India). Like most people, I have a special craving at times for certain foods. Being a Bengali I have a tremendous yearning for fish, especially the fish known in North America as shad. Even though this is a very bony fish, it has a special appeal because of its flavour. Shad resembles white fish, except that it is a little wider and softer. The scale of fresh shad is really shiny. Most Europeans and Westerners love caviare (the roes of beluga, sterlet, keta, or dog-salmon), but if they try shad roe just once, they will come back for more. The distinctive taste of shad roe is retained when the roe is gently fried in ghee and served with freshly chopped coriander leaves, green chili and fresh squeezed lemon juice. There are many ways we can cook shad, but because it is a bony fish, it is more desirable to serve shad roe. Fried shad roe cooked in a plenty of green (unripe) tamarind liquid was our favorite food during summer days.

Fried Shad Roes

2 large roes (from one large shad about 7 to 8 pounds)
⅓ cup rice flour
¼ tsp. turmeric
pinch of salt
¼ tsp. black pepper
About ½ cup ghee or melted butter
juice of fresh lemon (about 1 tbsp)
2 fresh green chilies, (cut in the middle all the way and carefully remove all the seeds, wash hand quickly)
2 to 3 tbsp. chopped fresh coriander leaves
Salt and pepper to taste.

Wash the roes, being careful not to puncture the thin outer membrane. Blanch roes in boiling water for 30 seconds. Drain, rinse with cold water and cool. Dry roes on paper towels. Combine rice flour, turmeric, salt and black pepper in a pie plate.

Gently roll the roes in rice flour, shake the excess flour. Melt ghee in a large frying pan. Fry the floured roes over medium heat about 10 minutes, turn them a few times until crisp and golden. Remove to a warm platter. Sprinkle a little salt and black pepper. Then pour the remaining hot ghee in frying pan over the roes. Sprinkle lemon juice over the roes. Garnish with green chili and coriander leaves.

Netaji's birth day celebrated

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In Delhi, several functions were organised in different parts of the city to mark the occasion. At a function at Netaji Park near the Jama Masjid, Netaji's services to the nation were recalled by speakers.

Subhas Chandra Bose

Third airline starts

New Delhi, (UNI) - "Vayadoot" the third level air service in India, stared operation from January 26.

The operation of the new service is initially confined to the north-eastern region connecting areas which are not covered by Indian Airlines.

The Union Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation, A.P. Sharma, making this announcement, said the service had an authorised capital of 250 million dollars.

Pending selection of a suitable aircraft for the feeder service, two F-27 Fokker Friendship aircraft have been made available by Indian Airlines to commence operations in the eastern region.

Solar eclipse yeilds data

New Delhi, (UNI) - President of the Indian National Science Academy Prof. M.G. K. Menon has said the study of total solar eclipse of 1980 had yielded important results.

Prof. Menon, who was inaugurating a three-day international symposium on the total solar eclipse, said the observations conducted during the period of the eclipse in India not only covered narrow fields like optical astronomy but were also extended to areas like solar radiation radio astronomy, ionospheric physics, atmospheric physics and the effect of eclipse on the behaviour of animals, birds and insects.

Prof. Menon said the solar eclipse also provided a great opportunity for cooperative work between a large number of scientists from various parts of the world in India. He said the occasion was memorable because a large number of Indian scientists could take part in it.

Prof. Menon said it was a pity that the common people of the country were frightened away from witnessing one of nature's most spectacular sights because of superstitions. The high pressure publicity on the eve of the total solar eclipse that people who looked at the sun during the eclipse would lose their eye-sight or that they should avoid taking food because of possible poisoning, had affected even those who were not usually superstitious.

Prof. Menon said the lesson of this type of propaganda should be learnt. Scientific issues should be propagated in a scientific manner, he said.

INDO-BANGLADESH JOINT VENTURES IDENTIFIED

New Delhi, (UNI) - More than 30 areas for joint ventures and co-operation between India and Bangladesh have been identified in the fields of agriculture, industry, power and transport, according to a spokesman for the delegation of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) which visited Bangladesh recently.

The largest number of projects have been identified in the field of industry in which the Bangladesh Government is keen to give special thrust during its Second Five-Year Plan period with a view to restoring the country's balance of trade with India and other nations.

In the field of agricultural co-operation, the export of basic technical equipment which would help Bangladesh stabilise its agricultural production and also enable it to export its surplus products, has been identified.

A large quantity of pump sets has been sought for by Bangladesh. A total of about 600,000 pump-sets of various designs and capacity during its second plan may be needed from India.

More Muslims in India than Pak

New Delhi, (UNI) - India has the second largest muslim population in the world. There are more muslims in India than in Pakistan.

According to a recent report, Muslim population in India is estimated at more than 121 million, while Indonesia, which tops the list, has more than 159 million. Pakistan has as many as 75 million muslims.

The report says there are more than 50 million muslims living in seven countries of the world with the population increase at two per cent annually.

The seven countries are Indonesia, India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, China, Nigeria and the Soviet Union.

The muslim population, the report says, will reach one billion mark by the end of the year.

Market for S.Indian films

Madras, (UNI) - The South Indian Film Export Promotion Council has concluded agreements with Kuwait, Mauritius, Afghanistan and the United Kingdom for the export of South Indian films.

The Secretary-General of the Council, T.S. Narasimha, told newsmen here that with the signing of the agreements the Council had achieved a major breakthrough in tapping overseas markets for south Indian films.

The business was concluded at the recent Eighth International Film Festival of India in Delhi.

Kuwait has agreed to import five films, for each of which it will pay 4,000 dollars. United Kingdom had asked for one film at 8,000 dollars for video taping.

While the traditional market for south Indian films had been Singapore, Malaysia and Sri Lanka, the Council this year has been able to tap other non-conventional markets.

The Council, recently sponsored by the South Indian Film Chamber of Commerce (Madras), has signed an agreement with Mauritius for the export of four films three Tamil and one Telugu. Mauritius intended to take 12 more films, four in Telegu, seven in Kannada and one in Malayalam. The delegates from Mauritius had expressed their willingness to take more Tamil films if India could offer them. The contract for these would be signed at the end of the Festival of South Indian Films to be held in Mauritius in March this year.

Afghanistan has bought south Indian films for the first time. It has agreed to import all the films entered by the Council in the festival and two others on distribution basis.

Awards for gallantry

The National Awards for Gallantry to children for 1980 have been given away. Presenting the awards in New Delhi, the Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi called upon the children to be brave and courageous and make India strong and united. She said that during her childhood, her aim was national independence. Today, the goal before the children should be to eradicate poverty and fight against difficulties faced by the country with courage. The Prime Minister, said, that courage and spirit of service should be inculcated in the minds of children to make them useful citizens. It is the prime responsibility of everyone to take care of the mental and physical health of the children, who are the hope of the nation. Mrs. Gandhi said, this year is being celebrated as the International Year of the Disabled. Special emphasis should be given to help the disabled, including the blind, she added.

Sixteen children ranging from 5-15 years of age received the awards. Of them 5 are from Uttar Pradesh, two each belong to Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh and Maharashtra and one each from Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana and Karnataka.

Joint ventures with Kuwait

New Delhi, (UNI) - Two high-level delegations from Kuwait and Bahrain will arrive in India on February 8 and 10 respectively to discuss with this country areas where joint ventures can be established.

Kuwait has evinced interest in collaborating with India in establishing joint ventures in third world countries. Kuwait is also keen to invest in mining and allied projects in India.

India, on the other hand, may be able to provide help to Kuwait in setting up small-scale units in Kuwait.

India will provide technical know-how and expertise to Bahrain, which proposes to set up a free trade zone.

The five-man delegation of Kuwait Foreign Trading and Contracting Investment Company led by Mr. Abdullah al-Gabani, including representatives of the Industrial Bank of Kuwait, will have detailed discussions with officials of the Indian Commerce and External Affairs Ministries. Their visit is aimed at exploring possibilities of investing in India.

The three-man delegation from Bahrain, led by Hamad Abudl, will meet officials in the Ministries of Commerce and Industry and will acquaint itself with the technical skill attained by India in the engineering field. Its basic areas of interest include welding electrodes, aluminium utensils, steel office furniture and foundries.

CLASSIFIEDS

Matrimonials

U.S. immigrant, 29, U.S. educated, excellently established, very handsome, tall, Agarwal, architect (M.Arch) seeks beautiful match in India or abroad. Visiting India March, 1981. Write with returnable photograph, Box 194, Honolulu, Hawaii 96810 (808-922-8920).

Wanted a Canadian/U.S. immigrant or citizen girl for my nephew, M.Com., 29, height 5'-8", handsome, fair complexioned, polite, Jain, presently working in Saudi Arabia, willing to migrate to North America, visiting Canada in spring. Caste no bar. Girl's merits only consideration. Please write with returnable photograph to Mr. D.C. Jain, 38 Talon St., North Bay, Ontario, Canada P1A 1N5 or call (705) 474-5259.

Wanted a Canadian/U.S. immigrant or citizen girl preferably Jain for Jain bachelor, M.B.B.S., M.D., 27, height 5'-8", presently working in Nagpur, India. Willing to migrate to North America. Girl's merits only consideration. Write with returnable photograph to Mr. D.C. Jain, 38 Talon St., North Bay, Ontario, Canada, P1A 1N5 or call (705) 474-5259.

Correspondence invited from gentleman for our daughter, beautiful, homely, educated, bank employee, Canadian citizen, 25, 5'-4" but innocently divorced, previous marriage lasted for months only. Caste no bar. M-1769, The Canadian India Times.

Matrimonial correspondence invited from a beautiful, educated Jat Sikh girl, immigrant or citizen, at least 5'-2", for a Jat Sikh, 25, swift, engineer, government service, Canadian citizen. Whole family very well settled in Canada. Early marriage call (514) 626-0728 or write with photo to M-1766, The Canadian India Times.

Suitable match preferably in Canada for a divorced Rajput girl, 25, attractive, homely, M.A. Economics, working in States. Also for her younger brother, 23, graduate, extremely handsome, tall and athletic, working in India. Caste no bar. M-1757, The Canadian India Times.

Suitable Ramgarhia match required for an educated, employed Ramgarhia girl age21 years, height 5'-1"), Canadian citizen and family well settled in Canada for last 14 years. For details and further information please write to M-1756, The Canadian India Times.

Correspondence invited from attractive ladies in twenties for a highly placed clean-shaven Sikh engineer, 5'-10", handsome, sophisticated, US citizen. Contact 712-220 Woodridge, Nepean, Ont. K2B 8G1.

Suitable matured gentleman required for a slim, well educated, professional nurse, mid-thirties, 5'-4" tall, Canadian citizen, well settled and independent. Caste no bar. For further particulars please write to M-1760, The Canadian India Times.

Wanted suitable match for Christian girl, 23, from India. B.Ed., 5'-4" tall. Please correspond M-1763, The Canadian India Times.

Wanted a suitable professional match for a graduate Hindu-Punjabi girl, 22, 5'-4", charming personality, recent immigrant, respectable family in Canada. Please write details with photograph to M-1764, The Canadian India Times.

Matrimonial correspondence invited for a professional, pretty Agarwal girl, 28, 5'-8", fair complexion. Interested persons with good family background should apply in writing with full details to M-1768, The Canadian India Times, or phone (709)-673-4470.

Radio and TV tapes for Lanka

Madras, (UNI) - Recorded tapes of radio and television programmes from India will be flown to Sri Lanka on a regular basis for braodcast and exhibition in that country.

Sri Lanka Minister for Information and Tourism Anandatissa Dealwis, who arrived here yesterday from New Delhi after discussions with Indian Information and Broadcasting Minister Vasant Sathe, told newsmen that this arrangement would enable mutual cooperation between the two countries in various fields including music.

Mr. Alwis said he would make immediate arrangements to receive the recorded tapes of Thyagaraja aradhanas (concerts in memory of South Indian music maestro Thyagaraja) to broadcast them in the Tamil service of Sri Lanka Radio for the benefit of the Tamil-speaking population there.

UAE participation

Ahmedabad (Gujarat), (UNI) - The United Arab Emirates has decided to take part in the alumina and seamless tube projects to be set up in the joint sector in the Indian state of Gujarat.

The protocol incorporating the two projects was signed by the visiting President of the Dubai Chamber of Commerce, Saif Al Ghurair with the Gujarat Industrial Investment Corporation (GIIC) and the Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation (GMDC) on January 29.

Gujarat Chief Minister Madhavsinh Solanki and Finance Minister Sanat Mehta were present at the signing ceremony.

New Canadian play sought

The Toronto Board is looking for a new Canadian play and will pay $6,000 for the commissioned work.

The chosen play will be presented by a professional company and director for its premier performance as part of the Board's Canada Festival October 15 to 17.

Deadline for submission of a draft outline is March 20th and a selection committee will choose the winning draft by April 6.

The playwright will then have until July 1 to produce the finished play.

The play should reflect the Canadian experience and its vast multi-cultural nature and should be suitable for later productions by students ages 11 to 15. There should be four to six major roles and, if possible, as many supporting roles. The play should run 40 to 60 minutes.

The purpose of Canada Festival -- A Celebration of Our Country -- is to poromote Canadian content in schools.

For more information contact Miss Kathryn Brown, Toronto Board of Education, 155 College St., Toronto, M5T 1P6.

Sari: does it reveal or hide?

New Delhi, (UNI) - Saree is the subject of a public debate in Pakistan.

How much of a woman's figure does it reveal or hide? Sould a Muslim woman wear it? These are some of the questions being raised in the "Letters to the Editor" column of the Urdu weekly "Akhbar-i-Jahan," from Karachi.

One letter demanded that the saree be banned and women asked to wear shalwar -- qamiz which it claimed was Pakistan's national dress. It argued that the saree was a Hindu apparel.

Some letters argued that the saree, instead of covering, helped reveal body contours.

One letter from Saudi Arabia (written by a Pakistani) said a saree-clad woman was stopped from entering a market during the Ramzan because a policeman thought she was immodestly dressed.

The letter said the saree tended to emphasise a woman's figure.

However, these arguments were countered by others who wrote that even Shalwar-Qamiz was a Hindu dress. "Should we stop wearing these just because Hindus and Sikhs wear them in East Punjab?" asked one.

Another letter called the saree a sub-continental dress and said it deserved to be Pakistan's national dress.

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Please help us find the light at the end of the tunnel by inserting this one small sentence in your will: "I give to the Canadian Cancer Society the residue of my estate." You will be leaving the rest to us.

Canadian Cancer Society
CAN CANCER BE BEAT?
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